

Menominee SubZone Citizen Participation Plan

Menominee SubZone:

Menominee legislative resolution #98-35 titled: Designation of Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities authorized Menominee tribal participation in the USDA-Rural Development Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community initiative. A January 1998 inter-tribal planning group assembled to enlist the cooperation of three northern Wisconsin Indian tribes, Menominee, Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, and Sokaogon Chippewa, and their developable site partners.

The Menominee, Lac Du Flambeau and Mole Lake Ojibway tribes in collaboration with their developable site partners have embarked upon a proactive and socially accepted decision-making process. The three tribal governments will weigh-in on efforts to implement a citizen participation plan, a key instrument for Enterprise Community development.

A lengthy application process was successfully undertaken and on December 24, 1998 the United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development conferred a 10-year Enterprise Community designation on the inter-tribal consortium. With the long-term goal of alleviating poverty within the three member and developable site partner communities, the lead entity is a State of Wisconsin 501 C (3) corporation. The name of the organization is called the Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community, Inc.

Review, adoption and implementation of a citizen participation plan is an important attribute of USDA-Rural Development mandates on citizen empowerment. Espousing leadership from the “bottom up and not top down” the Menominee SubZone Committee will exercise its mission in a formal community decision-making mode and methodology.

**Revised as adopted with changes by
Menominee SubZone Committee boydl 9/14/2005**

Menominee SubZone Committee:

The official name of the committee shall be the **Menominee SubZone Committee**. The **Menominee SubZone Committee** will appoint committee members to its committee whenever it is necessary to enhance the prospects of a successful community empowerment initiative. A citizen advisory board the **Menominee SubZone Committee** is created to establish linkages between the Menominee Nation, its three member consortium and its developable site partners. Deriving its powers from formally adopted bylaws the **Menominee SubZone Committee** shall conduct community meetings in every community of the reservation/county.

Under the tutelage of the Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community, Inc board of directors the prospects of local citizen participation will be advanced. The **Menominee SubZone Committee** shall enlist a membership of five or more members from the Menominee and developable site partner communities. This citizen advisory board will actively promote Menominee and developable site partner participation. Deriving its powers from its official by-laws the Menominee Citizen Participation Plan will seek to enhance maximum participation.

Under the auspices of the Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community, Inc., the **Menominee SubZone Committee** will authorize development of an official organizational chart. This chart shall describe its official role within the Menominee reservation community. The **Menominee SubZone Committee** will effectuate benchmark activity as described in the August 1999 inter-tribal Memorandum of Understanding. U.S. congressional mandates regarding Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community citizen empowerment is made manifest by this Menominee SubZone Citizen Participation Plan.

The official bylaws of the **Menominee SubZone Committee** shall be strictly observed throughout **Menominee SubZone Committee** activities. The Chairman of the **Menominee SubZone Committee** shall be chosen from committee membership. Recruitment for **Menominee SubZone Committee** membership shall come from the citizens within the Menominee Nation and the Shawano County developable site partner.

The **Menominee SubZone Committee** will keep the Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community, Inc apprised of all benchmark progress.

Members of the Menominee SubZone Committee will receive a meeting stipend payment authorized under USDA-Rural Development obligated fund accounts. Committee members will adhere to requirements preventing any conflicts of interest.

The Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community, Inc board of directors is vested with the authority to create local subzone committees. The Menominee SubZone Committee shall approve and validate all Menominee benchmark selections including wholezone initiatives, amendments, and changes. The plan for citizen involvement in the Menominee community follows the parameters of citizen involvement being exercised throughout the Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community.

The Menominee SubZone Committee will advance the prospects of “sustainable development” throughout the 10-year USDA-Rural Development designation period. Unique, traditional and cultural Enterprise Community characteristics having been established, the Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community, Inc shall actively pursue Menominee language and culture projects and benchmarks.

Intertribal cultural benchmark initiatives are required to reaffirm tribal attempts to preserve language and culture. The Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community shall be ever mindful of its unique cultural mission of protecting Mother Earth. The Menominee SubZone Committee shall promote and support the established mission of the Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community, Inc.

Traditional Menominee cultural initiatives must adhere to the concept established by the Menominee Language and Culture Code (Menominee Ordinance 96-22). The Menominee Language and Culture Code shall be the catalyst for all Enterprise Community sustainable development initiatives. By coopting the logistical support of all local, state and federal units of government, a permanent and clearly defined support mechanism is created. Increasing awareness and improving the quality of life within the Menominee SubZone shall be a mission.

In conjunction with Shawano County the Menominee SubZone developable site partner, the Menominee tribe has established a total of 21 “original” benchmarks. New benchmarks can be included, reduced

or eliminated as determined by the local SubZone Committee. The Northwoods NiiJii EC-Executive Director and the Menominee SubZone Office-Program Manager shall guide official benchmark progress and record keeping. Updating benchmark development shall be carried out whenever the Menominee SubZone Committee deems necessary. Annual USDA-Rural Development grants shall be used as “seed monies” to leverage Menominee tribal benchmarks.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

The Menominee SubZone Committee will consist of at least 5 members, but not more than 15 members from the Menominee reservation and “developable site” community. The Menominee SubZone Committee however may select more if deemed necessary and shall utilize every means to select committee members from individuals living below the national poverty level. To insure the overall effectiveness of SubZone Enterprise Community development, the Menominee SubZone Committee shall review benchmark development on a month-to-month, and yearly basis. The Menominee SubZone Committee shall rely on the Calendar Year Report of the Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community-Executive Director for official reporting.

Community input is a primary feature and key attribute of the Enterprise Community decision-making process. An annual community meeting will establish new priorities as required by the Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community Strategic Plan. Newly created benchmark priorities shall neither negate nor impede the progress of earlier previously established benchmarks. Establishing input from the Menominee community into future benchmark development shall be given permanent status.

Upon the recommendation of the Menominee SubZone Committee, all newly proposed project benchmarks will be adopted and added to the USDA-Rural Development benchmark listing (refer to USDA-Rural Development/Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community “original” list of 56 benchmarks). Suggestions to amend or modify the Menominee SubZone section of Northwoods NiiJii Strategic Plan will be honored. A perfunctory amendment process is only required to update newly adopted benchmarks on to the USDA-Rural Development National Benchmark Registry.

**MENOMINEE SUBZONE DEVELOPABLE SITE PARTNER-
SHAWANO COUNTY:**

The Shawano County developable site partner will utilize the existing Shawano County Economic Development Program-“Citizens Participation Plan as the primary outlet for public information, dissemination and participation. The Shawano County Economic Development Program is administered by Shawano County Economic Progress, Inc. by the authority of the Shawano County Board.

The Shawano County Citizens Participation Plan will utilize a Citizens Participation Committee to ensure proper representation and responsiveness to the needs of Shawano County citizens. Committee members shall consist of people representing the following: people of low and moderate income, residents of the designated target area (if applicable), local government, real estate, banking, and labor.

The Shawano County citizen participation process shall be initiated by Shawano County Economic Progress, Inc. or the Shawano County Board Chairman when a project or comprehensive plan requires review.

The policies for Shawano County citizen participation can be found in the Shawano County, Wisconsin, Community Development Program-Citizens Participation Plan, as prepared by: Shawano County Economic Progress, Inc., Shawano County, Wisconsin